

John Velin, Director

LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES

MINUTES

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Thursday, February 7, 2008
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Room 10, State Office Bldg,
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

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Co-Chair: Rep. Kathy Tingelstad

Commission Members Present: Sen. Ellen Anderson, Al Berner, Jeffrey Broberg, Rep. Lyndon Carlson, Sen. Satveer Chaudhary, Rep. Ron Erhardt, Sen. Dennis Frederickson, Nancy Gibson, John Hunt, Mary Mueller, Sen. Pat Pariseau, Rep. Kathy Tingelstad, Rep. Tom Rukavina, Sen. Jim Vickerman, Rep. Jean Wagenius.

Staff Present: J. Velin, S. Thornton, M. McDonough, M. Banker, D. Griffith

Excused: David Hartwell, John Herman

1. Approve agenda for LCCMR meeting

Rep. Kathy Tingelstad called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

2. Approve minutes for January 15, 2008

Al Berner requested clarification of his motion on January 15, 2008 regarding the Emerging Issues Account Criteria to read "For a request to be approved, a quorum of the Commission must be present and at least 60% of those members present must vote in favor of approval". John Hunt moved approval of the minutes with the revision – motion prevailed.

3. Members report potential conflicts of interest regarding today's business

No potential conflicts reported.

4. Discuss schedule options for planning and Request For Proposal (RFP) for next 3 years

Susan Thornton started discussions on the materials handed out on schedule options. John Velin stated it is important to have this schedule completed today. Al Berner asked if the information could get out on the LCCMR website. Susan Thornton said "Yes, it would definitely be put on the LCCMR website".

Mary Mueller asked about having some Citizen Input Meetings. Mike Banker explained that this issue is being explored for this year.

John Hunt asked about Technical Review and Peer Review. Susan Thornton explained that those two processes have been discussed with staff and staff is confident this schedule presented can be done.

Rep. Kathy Tingelstad asked to have staff add a line in the schedule regarding Technical and Peer Review.

Al Berner asked if it is necessary to spend the full 5.5% the first year. Susan Thornton explained that the money could wait until the second year but the bill would have to appropriate it that way.

Nancy Gibson asked what dollar amount will be available in 2009. Susan Thornton explained the amount available will be dependent on market value of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as of June 30, 2008.

Susan Thornton reminded members there will be a Session Report at the first meeting after the Legislative Session.

Rep. Kathy Tingelstad moved to adopt a calendar for 2008 / 2009 / 2010 with flexibility to dates – motion prevailed.

Rep. Kathy Tingelstad rotated the chair to Rep. Jean Wagenius.

5. Update on Statewide Conservation & Preservation Plan

Deb Swackhamer (Project Lead – U of M) discussed the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan and introduced the following presenters: Paul Bockenstedt (Bonestroo), John Shardlow (Bonestroo), Nick Jordan (U of M), and Jean Coleman (CR Planning).

Rep. Kathy Tingelstad approved expenses for attendance for the duration of Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan Team meetings.

6. Easement Stewardship Monitoring and Enforcement Fund Draft Legislation (continued from Jan. 15, 2008 meeting)

Rep. Jean Wagenius explained her handout related to “Easement Stewardship Monitoring and Enforcement Fund Draft Legislation”. She explained to members that this is something that she will introduce when the Legislative Session begins. She does not intend to amend it to the LCCMR recommendation and she will not request a hearing on it this Session.

Bill Becker (DNR) was requested to testify and stated “the DNR is supportive of the concept”.

Sen. Dennis Frederickson said he thought \$10,000 was too high and questioned averaged draw of 5%.

Kevin Lines (BWSR) stated they are supportive of the concept. Mr. Lines said their primary concern would be that this could diminish their ability to sell and market conservation easements to landowners.

Rep. Jean Wagenius rotated the chair to Rep. Lyndon Carlson.

7. Consider a recommendation of extending the availability of the appropriation M.L. 2005, First Special Session, Chp. 1, Art. 2, Subd. 6(h) “Paul Bunyan State Trail” acquisition (\$400,000)

Stan Linnell (DNR) explained why the extension was needed. John Hunt asked what the ending date is for this appropriation. Susan Thornton explained that the appropriation can only be extended for full fiscal years and the work program can determine an earlier ending date.

Forrest Boe (DNR) explained this project is part of a larger project with the City of Bemidji.

Sen. Jim Vickerman moved to approve a recommendation to the legislature to extend the availability of M.L. 2005, First Special Session, Chp. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 11, Subd. 6(h) titled “Paul Bunyan State Trail” until June 30, 2009 – motion prevailed.

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8. Other Business

- Determine next meeting date – Co-Chair is David Hartwell

Greg Hubinger (Director, Legislative Coordinating Commission - LCC) announced the process for hiring the new director for the LCCMR. Susan Thornton has been appointed as interim Director beginning March 4, 2008.

Mr. Hubinger explained the hiring of the new director will be done in three stages. First, there will be a non-partisan staff group established by the LCC that will be responsible for posting the vacancy, for screening the applicants, for conducting the first round of interviews. Second, the Members Selection panel (consisting of the LCCMR Executive Committee plus Sen. Ellen Anderson and Rep. Ron Erhardt) will be responsible for conducting the second round of interviews and giving their recommendation to the full LCCMR for the new LCCMR Director. Third, the LCCMR Members will be asked to ratify the Members panel recommendation for Director of the LCCMR.

The timeline is estimated at 6 weeks.

9. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
